

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request entry of this Preliminary Amendment before beginning examination of the above-identified patent application, and early favorable action by the Examiner.

After entry of this amendment, claims 1-4, 6, 8-10, 12, 14-16, and 18-33 will be pending. Claims 1-4, 6, 8-10, 12, 14-15, 18-21, and 24-28 have been amended. Claims 5, 7, 11, and 13 have been cancelled without prejudice and rewritten as new claims 30, 29, 31, and 33, respectively, in view of the fact that these dependent claims, as originally filed, were listed out of order. New claim 32 has also been added. Claims 17 and 23 are cancelled without prejudice. Support for the amendments and for the new claims may be found, for example, in the specification of application PCT/US2004/024747 as originally filed, e.g., page 3, lines 1 and 16; page 6, lines 22-29; page 6, line 31 to page 7, line 2; page 7, lines 3-7; and page 7, line 10 – page 8, line 5, and in the previously filed claims of application PCT/US2004/024747. No new matter has been added.

Enclosed is a check for \$1,480.00 for the filing, search, examination, and extra claim fees, and for the late provision of an oath or declaration. Please charge any other fee occasioned by this paper to our Deposit Account No. 07-1700.

The claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conversation with Applicants' attorney would expedite allowance of this application, the Examiner is cordially invited to call the undersigned attorney at (617) 570-1806.

Respectfully submitted,

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